in view the need to make edible oils affordable to consumers in the wake of global rise in their prices.

(b) Presently, there is no proposal to revoke the decision to reduce customs duty on palm oil.

Industrial Parks established in the country

2483. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial Parks established in the country, State-wise, under the Industrial Parks Scheme, 2002;

(b) the essential features of the scheme; and

(c) the result obtained on account of the enforcement of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) State-wise approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme 2002 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Industrial Park Scheme aims at encouraging private investment in development of industrial parks in which high quality infrastructure is made available in a centralized manner, so that the units operating from such parks can have the benefit of lower transaction cost and shorter start-up time. Under this Scheme, income tax exemption under Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act 1961, is available to the developer/operator of the park, for any ten consecutive years out of fifteen years from the date of commencement of the park.

(c) Under the Industrial Park Scheme, 1999 and Industrial Park Scheme, 2002, 273 approvals (including 42 withdrawals) have been given till date. In 231 live projects, around Rs. 16449.74 crores is estimated investment and around Rs. 14,425.41 crores (88% of total investment) is estimated investment on infrastructure development. 17216 units were proposed to be located in the projects.

Statement

State-wise details of approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme 2002

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of approvals under the Industrial Park Scheme, 2002
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21
2.	Chandigarh	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	-
4.	Gujarat	4
5.	Haryana	2
6.	Karnataka	36

1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra	49
8.	Pondicherry	1
9.	Rajasthan	78
10	Tamil Nadu	7
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4
12.	Uttaranchal	6
13.	West Bengal	6
	TOTAL	215*

*Out of 238 total approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme, 2002, 23 have been withdrawn.

Import of soda ash

2484. SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more soda ash import is being made due to reduction in import duty;

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to protect the domestic manufacturer of soda ash industry; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to increase soda ash production as soda ash is an intermediate product used in the production of soap, detergent, glass, colour, dye-staff and other chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) soda ash is delicenced and 100% FDI is permitted to encourage domestic production. Import of soda ash is free. Existing customs duty on soda ash is 7.5%. There is no reduction in duty during 2008-09. The shortfall in the production of soda ash in 2006-07 was due to closure of one of the manufacturers of soda ash for few months. The domestic production, import and export of soda ash for last four years is as follows:—

Year	Production (in MT)	Qty. (MT)	Import value (Rs. Lakhs)	Unit value (Rs. Per MT)	Qty. (MT)	Export value (Rs. Lakhs)	Unit value (Rs. Per MT)
2003-04	21,67,079	1,28,365	7502	5844	1,83,864	9651	5249
2004-05	22,87, 244	1,87,502	11,859	6325	3,19,282	21,485	6729
2005-06	22,98,241	6,52,756	11,872	1819	1,97,225	15,545	7882
2006-07	20,78,057	2,60,386	21,394	8216	1,36,991	10,472	7644

It may be seen from the latest export price of Rs. 7644 per MT is lower than the import price of Rs. 8216 per MT indicating competitiveness of Indian soda ash industry.